

HOLLYWOOD LIKES YOUR BREASTS THE WAY THEY ARE

A backlash against boob jobs has kicked off in La La Land. By Bec Whish

Young actresses out there, invest in a good bra and burn your cosmetic surgeon's business card.

Why? The fourth *Pirates Of The Caribbean* film will only hire women with chests au naturel, and they'll be making girls jump and run around in auditions to prove they have the soft, authentic bounce required for sword fighting and other pirate pastimes. We're not kidding.

A casting call for the movie went out recently, specifying: "Must have real breasts. Do not submit if you have implants." For women who came of age during the '90s, when Pamela Anderson was the most watched woman on television, it's interesting to hear that silicone has gone out of favour.

Danny Roth, a casting agent with offices in New York and LA, says, "If you're talented, let your talent speak for you ... Personally, I think breast implants are indicative of something else, potentially. [It could be] insecurity, or that they're taking advice from people they shouldn't be taking advice from."

CELEBRITY DOWNSIZING

Supporting the argument that natural breasts are best, a swathe of stars has had their implants taken out (or "revised", as they say in the business). Victoria Beckham had hers removed, ostensibly, so she could appear on the cover of *US Vogue*. Britney Spears, Demi Moore, Kate

Beckinsale and Kimberley Stewart are all rumoured to have downsized, and Sharon Osbourne has nothing nice to say about her 34DD enhancement: "I wish I'd never had my breasts done the last time.

They've put these bloody great bags in that are too f%#*ing round - it's like a waterbed on your chest." She's planning to have them taken out and made into paperweights for rocker husband Ozzy. "It's true. They're better on his desk than on my chest. They're awful!"

Dr Fiona Giles, media and gender expert from The University of Sydney, comments that, "When celebrities make the decision to have their breast implants taken out, it can be quite influential. Reversal procedures are also painful, difficult and expensive, so that really emphasises the idea of not having implants in the first place."

The New York Post identifies another reason A-listers are turning everyday women off boob jobs: the terrible role model. It cites examples like Heidi Montag, who isn't medically allowed to get bigger implants, and Amy Winehouse, who was rushed to hospital due to complications after her surgery.

SAYING NO TO PLASTIC

Judging by declining doctor bookings, the average Aussie girl is feeling more content with her God-given cup size. Dr Lily Vrtik, a plastic surgeon in Brisbane specialising in reconstructive

procedures for breast cancer patients, has seen demand for cosmetic breast implants drop over the past few years. "Back in the '80s and '90s, it was really trendy to have them, but, nowadays, people are more shop-smart, so they're more aware of the risks," she says.

And the dangers are significant: scar tissue can form around the implant and contract, and the implants can move out of their intended position, leak, deflate, rupture, get infected, make your nipples numb, and cause a "rippling" effect across the skin. They also become more risky the bigger you go.

"I do have patients who come in and say, 'I want big implants', and I try really hard to talk them out of it," says Vrtik. "Implants are made to fit a certain chest width, so if I put a really big one in you, it's going to be wider than your chest, which means that a quarter of your implant is going to be in your armpit. You'll be able to feel the edges of them, and you can't do a lot of things, like play tennis or sleep in certain positions."

Plus, you'll be "sore like there's no tomorrow" in Vrtik's own words. In fact, she has turned away patients who requested large implants, because she felt it'd do them more harm than good.

WE DIG REAL, NATURALLY

Beyond the influence of celebrity culture, there are smart and strong reasons why Australian girls are shying away from the

surgeon's knife. "We're seeing a mainstream shift towards an ideal of health and naturalness," says Giles. "Women want life to be simpler, and want to have a style based on doing less and being themselves more."

These ideas are echoed from a different angle by comedian Denis Leary: "I don't understand the fascination with breast implants. I like the real thing, no matter what the size. I like big ones. I like small ones. I think I even like the smaller ones better than the big ones. I love all shapes, all sizes. I love the ones that are shaped like golf balls; I love the ones that are shaped like teardrops. I like the melons and the pears, the footballs and the ferns. I love them all, as long as they're real." □

WOULD YOU GET A BOOB JOB?

YES 45%

NO 55%

"We're seeing a mainstream shift towards an ideal of health and naturalness."

Natural beauty
Chloë Sevigny